

SUMMARY OF DRIC/NITC PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETINGS

Scoping Meeting (1)

MDOT conducted an agency scoping meeting on August 31, 2005, at Cobo Hall in Detroit. The meeting, which was open to the public, provided the opportunity for federal, state, and local agencies to review and comment on the scoping document prepared to guide the study process. A copy of the transcript is available on the project website.

Public Workshops (18)

December 14, 2005	Vision Statement
December 21, 2005	First Step to Plaza Location
January 4, 2006	Final Vision Statement/Presentation of Preliminary Plaza Locations
January 18, 2006	Proposed Plaza Locations and Work Station "Q and A"
February 8, 2006	Proposed Plazas with Preliminary Tie to Bridges and I-75
February 27, 2006	Land Use Goals
March 8, 2006	Community Analysis
March 22, 2006	Community Planning
April 19, 2006	Context Sensitive Solution Terminology/Process
May 9 & 10, 2006	Social and Cultural Issues
May 23, 2006	Illustrative Land Use Plans
June 22, 2006	Bus Tour to View Toledo and Port Huron Bridges
August 24, 2006	Ramp/Plaza Concepts/Aesthetics
November 2/15, 2006	Initial Bridge Concepts/Aesthetics
April 26, 2007	Land Use/Urban Design/Crossing System Aesthetics
August 8, 2007	Bridge Aesthetics

Notes and other materials for the public workshops are available on the project website.

Formal Public Meetings (22)

- April 11, 12, 13, 14, 2005 Public Meetings - introduced the project and solicited input on where the Illustrative Alternatives should or should not go. Public input was used to define evaluation criteria and develop Illustrative Alternatives.
- June 27, 28, 29, 30, 2005 Public Meetings - explained the Illustrative Alternatives and received input. The community was involved in weighting evaluation criteria. The Illustrative Alternatives were then refined prior to evaluation. More than 900 people participated.
- December 5, 6, 7, 8, 2005 Public Meetings - reviewed the Illustrative Alternatives evaluation results. Public input led to working with the Delray/Southwest Detroit community to establish the area within which the proposed plaza would be located. The eight public workshops held between December 14, 2005, and March 22, 2006, fulfilled that objective.
- March 29, 2006 Public Meeting - presented the Practical Alternatives. The Practical Alternatives were refined based on the public input received.
- December 5, 2006 - discussed preliminary results of analyses of potential impacts of the Practical Alternatives. Public input received allowed further refinement and evaluation of the Practical Alternatives.
- January 11 and 31, February 28, March 21 and 28, 2007 - reviewed the DRIC deep drilling program to test for the location of brine well cavities. These meetings allowed the local

community to be fully aware of all field work and to have questions answered by a team of field representatives.

- April 25, 2007 - concluded discussion of DRIC deep drilling program and explained the next steps in the analysis process, which would lead to a conclusion to be released to the public in the DEIS.
- June 20, 2007 - reviewed the screening of Practical Alternatives. Public input received allowed refinements to the alternatives and addition of Alternative #16 to better address local access considerations.
- December 12, 2007 - reviewed the Context Sensitive Solutions and conceptual land use planning work conducted beginning December 2005. An open house allowed input to be gained on this aspect of the project as well as the cultural resources work addressing significant historic resources.

Notes and other material for the formal public meetings are available on the project website.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Public Hearings (2+)

Two public hearings on the DEIS were held on March 18 and 19, 2008, following formal notice of availability of the DEIS and all supporting technical reports. Twenty-six presentations/briefings for local governments and other groups, such as SEMCOG and Automation Alley, were conducted on the release of the DEIS and how to provide comments on the document. The hearings themselves were conducted, as most DRIC public meetings are, as a combination “open forum/formal presentation/open microphone format.” The open forum allowed the public to stop in anytime during the scheduled hours, gather facts on the study, and speak with members of the MDOT Team on a one-to-one basis. MDOT presented a summary of the DEIS during the formal presentation, followed by an opportunity for all to hear public comments and questions during the open microphone portion of the meeting, which was recorded by court reporters. Additionally, a special community meeting was conducted in Spanish on May 20, 2008, during the extended comment period. Copies of the DEIS, Executive Summary, and all supporting technical reports were made available on the project website, and at the following locations to view in person:

- MDOT Lansing Office, 425 West Ottawa St., (third floor), Lansing
- MDOT Metro Region Office, 18101 W. Nine Mile Rd., Southfield
- Detroit Transportation Service Center, 1400 Howard St., Detroit
- Taylor Transportation Service Center, 25185 Goddard Rd., Taylor
- Henry Ford Centennial Library, 16301 Michigan Ave., Dearborn
- Detroit Public Library, 5201 Woodward Ave., Detroit
- Bowen Branch of the Detroit Public Library, 3648 W. Vernor, Detroit
- Library at Southwestern High School, 6921 W. Fort St., Detroit
- Delray Recreation Center, 420 Leigh St., Detroit,
- Allen Park Library, 8100 Allen Rd., Allen Park
- Ecorse Library, 4184 W. Jefferson Ave., Ecorse
- Melvindale Library, 18650 Allen Rd., Melvindale
- River Rouge Library, 221 Burke St., River Rouge
- Kemeny Recreation Center, 2260 S. Fort St., Detroit
- Campbell Branch Library, 8733 W. Vernor, Detroit
- Neighborhood City Halls

- Central District, 2 Woodward Ave., Detroit
- Northwestern District, 19180 Grand River Ave., Detroit
- Northeastern District, 2328 E. Seven Mile Rd., Suite 2, Detroit
- Western District, 18100 Meyers Rd., Detroit
- Eastern District, 7737 Kercheval St., Detroit
- Southwestern District, 7744 W. Vernor St., Detroit

All written or recorded comments appear in a transcript of the public hearings, available on the project website.

Local Advisory Council (LAC) and Local Agency Group (LAG) (69+)

Composed of various elected officials, interest groups, and community representatives, the LAC met monthly beginning in March of 2005 through May of 2011. It was a representative form of public involvement that involved members bringing ideas and concerns of their respective constituents to the table for discussion. In turn, LAC members communicated results of those discussions to their groups. The Local Agency Group (LAG) was formed to have technical professionals from area governments, directly or indirectly affected by the DRIC/NITC proposal, engage in the study process. While held separately for the first year of the project (2005), LAG meetings were consolidated with those of the LAC after that. In March 2006 and November 2006, the LAC met jointly with the Canadian Community Consultation Group. The purpose of the meetings was to review the Practical Alternatives and the preliminary impact data before the public meetings on these topics. Each LAC meeting was open to the public and included two public comment periods. Each formal public meeting presentation was pre-screened at the LAC/LAG and refined based on their input. Additionally, monthly input was used to shape the study process, respond to issues, and conduct analyses to satisfy the community's interest in the project. Organizations participating in the DRIC Local Advisory Council included:

(Original) United Citizens of Southwest Detroit	Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice
Adult Well-Being Services	Federal Highway Administration
Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services	Friends of the Detroit River
Bagley Housing Association	Greater Corktown Development Corporation
Brownstown Township	Holy Cross Hungarian Parish
City of Allen Park	Homeland Security, Wayne County
City of Detroit	Hubbard Richard
City of Gibraltar	Jefferson Avenue Housing Development
City of Lincoln Park	Kemeny Center Advisory Committee
City of River Rouge	K-Scrap Resources Ltd.
City of Riverview	Latin Americans for Social and Economic Development Inc. (LASED)
City of Southgate	Messiah Housing Corporation
City of Taylor	Mexicantown Community Development Corp.
City of Trenton	Michigan House of Reps., District 12
City of Wyandotte	Michigan House of Reps., District 13
Community Health and Social Services	Michigan House of Reps., District 14
Delray Community Council	Michigan House of Reps., District 2
Delray United Action Council	Michigan House of Reps., District 23
Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation	Michigan House of Reps., District 4

Michigan State Senate, District 3
 Michigan State Senate, District 4
 Michigan State Senate, District 7
 Michigan State Senate, District 8
 People's Community Services Bridgewatch
 Detroit]
 SEMCOG
 Sierra Club
 Southwest Detroit Business Association
 Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision
 St. Francis Xavier
 Township of Grosse Ile.
 UAW Region 1A

United States Congress, 13th Congressional District
 United States Congress, 15th Congressional District
 United States Senator Carl Levin
 United States Senator Debbie Stabenow
 United States Steel - Great Lakes Works
 Warren/Conner Development Coalition
 Wayne County Commissioners, District 4
 Wayne County Commissioners, District 5
 Wayne County Commissioners, District 14
 Wayne County - Department of Public Service
 Windsor District Chamber of Commerce
 Windsor West Community Truck Watch Coalition
 Zoning Board of Appeals City of Riverview

Notes and other material for all LAC meetings are available on the project website.

Southwest Detroit Community Benefits Coalition (20+)

Beginning in August of 2009, MDOT met monthly with the Southwest Detroit Community Benefits Coalition (CBC), a community-initiated organization with an elected community board that has been working on behalf of hundreds of residents and other community stakeholders to identify the community's needs for mutually beneficial development in exchange for hosting the project. The MDOT/CBC meetings were typically conducted prior to the LAC meetings, with the CBC offered an opportunity afterward to provide an update during the LAC meeting as part of the regular agenda.

Boat and Bus Tours (2)

On September 28, 2005, a boat tour was conducted of the study area on both sides of the Detroit River. The tour examined different potential river crossing areas and the impacts they might have. The tour was open to agencies, LAC members, and the public. On June 22, 2006, a bus tour examined bridges in Toledo, Ohio, and Port Huron, Michigan. This tour was also open to agencies, LAC members, and members of the public.

MDOT Real Estate Meetings with Property Owners in the DRIC Study Area (4+)

Residents who are within the DRIC Study area footprint (see Figure 3-9) received a letter in early July 2007 inviting them to attend open houses held at the Delray Community Center on July 30 and 31 and August 1 and 2 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Owners/tenants were briefed on their rights and benefits, if they are relocated as part of the DRIC project. Information on the project and real estate procedures were available. MDOT did not engage in any discussions of property purchase. One-on-one meetings were held with about half the property owners/tenants on these four days. Additional meetings were held on an as-requested basis. These meetings took place as part of the preparation for the DEIS. Results are documented in MDOT's files. MDOT also interviewed all businesses owners/operators, usually at their place of business.

Other Public Involvement

The public involvement process has involved many small group/one-on-one meetings requested by the public. These have included meetings with city councils, chambers of commerce, trucking companies, owners and operators of potentially-impacted businesses, public agencies, and many other groups.